GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:393
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Ecologically Sensitive Area
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce the Ecologically Sensitive Area in the Western Ghats by about 6000 Square kms i.e. from 56000-odd Square kms extending over an area of 1500 kms and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat will reduce ecologically sensitive areas to make room for sustainable development and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the reduced ESA would adversely affect the lives and livelihood of the people in these States, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
(d) whether the Government would put a moratorium on setting up of any polluting industry near the ESA and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)& (c): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a draft Notification dated 04.09.2015 for notifying an area of 56,825 sq.km as ecologically sensitive covering six States in the Western Ghats, in supersession of the earlier draft notification issued on 10th March, 2014 incorporating provisions to clarify and to dispel the apprehensions and concerns raised by various stakeholders, while permitting sustainable development of the region.

Proposals for demarcating ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) have been received from the States of Kerala, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, wherein some of the States have proposed reduction of ESA in their State.

The draft Notification dated 04.09.2015 has been issued with a view to conserving the biodiversity of the Western Ghats region while providing adequate opportunities for livelihood security of the local people in the broad paradigm of sustainable development by promoting environment-friendly and socially inclusive development in the Western Ghats region. Further, habitations, plantations and agricultural activity/practices will also not be affected in the ESA due to the provisions contained in the draft notification.

(d)The draft Notification dated 04.09.2015, vide provisions contained in Section (3) (1) (a), (b), (c) & (d), has proposed to prohibit certain projects and activities in eco-sensitive areas of Western Ghats which have maximum interventionist and damaging impacts on the ecosystems.

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